

207

Roxbury, Jan. 24, 1867 5

Dear friend May:

Your letter of yesterday is just received. It seems you had at least a small share of the obstruction and annoyance which the late heavy and far-reaching storm so unexpectedly brought to so many people. You must have felt somewhat anxious about your wife and daughter, and a good deal relieved on reaching home to find that they had experienced no special discomfort.

I am in perfect agreement with you as to the best manner of using the bequest of our ever cherished friend, Francis Jackson. Regretting that you will not be able to attend the meeting on Monday forenoon, I shall aim to be present, to give my voice and vote for making the New England Freedmen's Commission the medium through which wisely and beneficially to spend the sum that may be awarded to us Trustees by the Court. At this moment, I forget who the Trustees are, besides yourself, Mr Phillips, Mr Whipple and myself. Unquestionably, Mr Phillips will advise that the bequest be given to the American Anti Slavery Society for the support of the Standard, and the agitation of the Suffrage question; and it is not unlikely that he will get a majority of the Trustees to side with him. In that case, I think it may be well for us who are in a minority to let the Court and the Master in Chancery know what view we take of the question. As for the Suffrage movement, it is now every where discussed, and almost universally approved among the loyal people of the country, and will doubtless be duly cared for by Congress; so that, anxious as I am to see universal suffrage established, I perceive no special reason why the funds left by Mr Jackson should be used in that direction. But the freedmen are perishing for lack of knowledge, and need a hundred teachers and schools where now they have but one. It grieves and astonishes me that W.P. and his party are so utterly indifferent to the education of the freedmen.

I am very sorry you took so much trouble to explain how you happened







to make no reference, when I saw you, to the very slight token of my esteem and indebtedness which it gave me so much pleasure to offer you. I thought nothing about it, and certainly wished for no special recognition of it. But I did very much regret that George was so thoughtless as to put you to the trouble of getting the package to your father's house. It had been at the store since the new year came in, and I had intended to see it duly sent; but it happened that I did not go into the city for several days, and thus the mistake and the delay occurred.

This is the evening for the "Subscription Anniversary" to continue the operations of the old Society. Many who have been in the habit of contributing to it will probably do so this year from ~~the~~ force of habit. Some others will make a strain to swell the subscriptions to the usual amount, and some "radical" Republicans aid (not given in other days) may be added. But I do not believe the pecuniary success will be large.

To-morrow is the anniversary of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society. I need not say that I shall not attend any of the meetings.

Last evening, I heard Gen. Butler on the impeachment of the President. Music Hall was well filled, but the General was too long in reaching the question of impeachment, and the lecture, on the whole, lacked directness and fire.

Your attached friend,

Rev. Samuel May, Jr.

Leicester,

Mass.

W. L. G.

P.S. To-morrow I propose letting Dr. Bigelow, of Boston, examine my injured arm, which still causes me unceasing pain.

Wife sends her love with mine to you all.



Roxbury, Jan. 24, 1867.